GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1536
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2003
REPORT ON FRONTIER MAIL ACCIDENT
SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Court of inquiry has blamed the negligence of train staff for the devastating fire in the Frontier Mail on May 15, 2003 which claimed 36 lives;

(b) if so, the main recommendations made by the Court of inquiry;

(c) the details of recommendations implemented so far;

(d) the details of recommendations still under implementation and the time by which the same are likely to be implemented; and

(e) the details of action taken against those held responsible by Court of inquiry?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL)

(a): Fire accident involving 2903 Up Golden Temple Mail(earlier known as Frontier Mail) was not inquired into by a Court of inquiry. Commission of Railway Safety, North Eastern Circle, who conducted the inquiry into the accident has fixed primary responsibility on an unidentified person, who either carried or left a bag containing explosive materials in sleeper coach No. 4, which caught fire during the run of the train as soon as it departed from Ludhiana.

(b): Main recommendations made by the Commissioner relate to use of Rexene and foam in furnishing the passenger coaches which give out toxic, dense smoke on burning, development of fire detectors on trains, opening of vestibules during the train journey, checks on extra passengers in reserved coaches and carriage of inflammable articles and monitoring of working of TTEs etc.

(c) & (d):Recommendations received from the Commission are examined by Zonal Railways and the Ministry of Railways considering their feasibility, practicality, financial and operational implications, etc. The examination, acceptance and implementation of various recommendations of the different Commissioners of Railway Safety is a continuous process.

(e): CRS/North Eastern Circle fixed secondary and blameworthy responsibility on six Commercial staff for various lapses in duty. Disciplinary action against them has been initiated.